

ANTISENSE MODULATION OF SURVIVIN EXPRESSION

RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/496,694, filed February 2, 2000, ^{issued as U.S. Patent 6,335,194} which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/286,407 filed April 5, 1999, issued as U.S. Patent 6,165,788, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/163,162 filed September 29, 1998, issued as U.S. Patent 6,077,709.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention provides compositions and methods for modulating the expression of Survivin. In particular, this invention relates to antisense compounds, particularly oligonucleotides, specifically hybridizable with nucleic acids encoding human Survivin. Such oligonucleotides have been
15 shown to modulate the expression of Survivin.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A hallmark feature of cancerous cells is uncontrolled proliferation. Among the differences that have been discovered between tumor and normal cells is resistance to the
20 process of programmed cell death, also known as apoptosis (Ambrosini et al., Nat. Med., 1997, 3, 917-921). Apoptosis is a process multicellular organisms have evolved to prevent uncontrolled cell proliferation as well as to eliminate cells that have become sick, deleterious, or are no longer
25 necessary. The process of apoptosis involves a multistep cascade in which cells are degraded from within through the concerted action of proteolytic enzymes and DNA endonucleases, resulting in the formation of apoptotic bodies that are then removed by scavenger cells. Research to date has shown that
30 much of the intracellular degradation is carried out through